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compound thereof and ester [and (b) ester] wherein, a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on the inner periphery of said bearing body so as to be separated from one another and, the inner diameters of said bearing body at areas between the bearing surfaces are arranged so as to be greater than the inner diameters at areas on the bearing surfaces except the hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves.

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Claim 11, line 12, delete "of".

Claim 17, line 15, delete "of".

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-22 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 11 and 17 are amended and claims 5 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,941,646). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mori et al. teaches a hydrodynamic type porous oil-impregnated bearing and bearing device. The bearing device includes two axially spaced porous oil-impregnated bearings A. Each one of these bearing has only one bearing surface 17.

Claim 1 is directed to a hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing and claim 6 is directed to a spindle motor for information equipment that includes a bearing having a porous bearing body of a sintered metal. Each of these devices has bearing surfaces opposed to a sliding surface of a rotating shaft. Claims 1 and 6 recite that a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on an inner periphery of the bearing body that are separated from one another.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because Mori et al. fails to teach each element of claims 1 and 6. Particularly, Mori et al. fails to teach a plurality of bearing surfaces that are formed on an inner periphery of the bearing body that are separated from one another. As a result, claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the applied art.

Claim 11 is directed to a hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing and claim 17 is directed to a spindle motor for information equipment that includes a bearing having a porous bearing body of a sintered metal. Also, claims 11 and 17 recite that a lubricant is impregnated into the porous bearing body and the lubricant is a lubricating grease comprising a thickener in a compounding ratio from 0.1% to 5.0% by weight.

Again, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claims 11 and 17. Particularly, Mori et

al. fails to teach a lubricating grease that comprises a thickener in a compounding ratio of 0.1% to 5.0% by weight as recited in claims 11 and 17. Thus, claims 11 and 17 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all other features of claim 1. Claim 7-9 depend from claim 6 and include all of the features of claim 6. Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11 and include all other features of claim 11. Claims 18-22 depend from claim 17 and include all other features claim 17. For at least the reasons the independent claims are allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 5 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and therefore the rejection as applied to these claims is now moot.

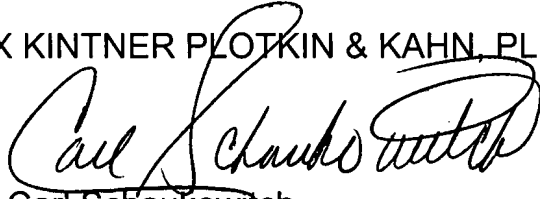
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension

together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account
01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Schaukowitch', written over a horizontal line.

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